Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 18, 2014

The Honorable Barack Obama
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We write to express our concerns with the Administration's apparent intent to take executive action on immigration reform. While Congress certainly understands the need for reforms to the current system, it is imperative that we work together to pass legislation that improves our immigration system, increases border security, and disincentivizes undocumented immigrants from illegally entering the United States. Any unilateral action taken by the Administration will impede our efforts.

In your post-election press conference on November 5, 2014, when asked about the prospect of executive action on immigration, you stated, "I'll be reaching out to both Mitch McConnell, John Boehner, and other Republican as well as Democratic leaders to find out how it is that they want to proceed. And if they want to get a bill done -- whether it's during the lame duck or next year -- I'm eager to see what they have to offer." Despite this comment, recent press reports and statements emanating from the White House indicate that you plan to take action prior to the aforementioned consultation with Congress. A decision to affect immigration reform via executive action circumvents the legislative process.

We ask that you deliver on your word and allow Congress to debate and vote on a bill for you to sign. We strongly encourage the Administration, under your leadership, to work with the 114th Congress to pass sensible, long-term reforms to address our nation's immigration issues. Our nation's immigrants deserve concrete policies that become law after thorough, transparent discussions.

Sincerely,

Joe Barton
Member of Congress

Michele Bachmann
Member of Congress

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Andy Barr
Member of Congress

Susan Brooks
Member of Congress

Rob Bishop
Member of Congress

John Carter
Member of Congress

John Culberson
Member of Congress

Blake Farenthold
Member of Congress

Bill Flores
Member of Congress

Trent Franks
Member of Congress

Kay Granger
Member of Congress

Ralph Hall
Member of Congress

Joe Heck
Member of Congress

Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress

Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

Sam Johnson
Member of Congress

Raúl Labrador
Member of Congress

Leonard Lance
Member of Congress

Bob Latta
Member of Congress

Mark Meadows
Member of Congress

Tim Murphy
Member of Congress

Randy Neugebauer
Member of Congress

Pete Olson
Member of Congress

Steven Palazzo
Member of Congress

Scott Perry
Member of Congress

Ted Poe
Member of Congress

Matt Salmon
Member of Congress

Pete Sessions
Member of Congress

John Shimkus
Member of Congress

Lamar Smith
Member of Congress

Chris Stewart
Member of Congress

Ann Wagner
Member of Congress

Roger Williams
Member of Congress

Frank Wolf
Member of Congress

Michael Burgess
Member of Congress